

70 In The Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows and cancel 7 – 14.

1(amended). A process for manufacturing a dental restoration comprising:

forming a die for a coping or a framework;

75 forming the coping or the framework from a ceramic material;

wherein the ceramic material is in its green state or in a partially sintered state;

placing the coping or framework on the die; and

80 fully sintering the coping or framework;

wherein the die is fabricated of a metal or alloy; and

wherein the metal or alloy comprises molybdenum, nickel or mixtures thereof.

2(original). The process of claim 1 wherein the ceramic material comprises alumina, zirconia, silicon nitride, silicon carbide, silica-alumina-nitride, mullite, garnets, porcelain or mixtures thereof.

3(original). The process of claim 2 wherein the wherein the porcelain comprises leucite, lithium disilicate, mullite or mica.

4(original). The process of claim 1 wherein the die is fabricated by milling or rapid 5 prototyping.

5(original). The process of claim 1 wherein the coping or framework is fabricated by milling or rapid prototyping.

6(original). The process of claim 1 wherein the die is fabricated of gypsum, silica, leucite, zirconia, hafnia, zirconia, alumina, magnesia, hafnia, zircon, aluminosilicate, cordierite, mica, silicon nitride, silicon carbide, silica-alumina-nitrides, mullite, garnet, or mixtures thereof.

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Claims 7 – 14 (cancelled).